

The Virginia Christian



Fall 2011

Vol. 42, No. 4

A Quarterly Publication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia
1290 Enterprise Drive • Lynchburg, VA 24502 • www.ccinva.org • 434-846-3400

Disciples churches affected by August earthquake

On August 23, 2011, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake struck about five miles from Mineral, Virginia, in Louisa County. The earthquake was felt across a dozen Eastern states. Three Disciples churches in the area sustained damage from the event. The epicenter of the earthquake was approximately a mile from historic Gilboa Christian Church in Cuckoo, Virginia, and its sanctuary was rendered unusable. While the floors and the roof can be saved, everything



Some of the damage sustained at Gilboa Christian Church.

in between will have to be rebuilt.

Yanceyville Christian Church had broken plaster, but no major damage. Louisa Christian Church had some structural damage which was repaired in time for their 160th anniversary homecoming celebration on September 18.

Continued on page 14

In This Issue:

- Reflections 2
- Around the Old Dominion 4
- Ministerial Changes 5
- Slash Christian 6
- Evangelism Workshop 7
- Women's Retreat 8
- Extreme Faith... 11
- Alaska Cruise 12
- LC News 13
- Craig Springs 15
- Youth News 14
- Kid's Korner 16

Calendar:

- Regional Board Meeting – Nov. 19 at the Summit
- Evangelism Workshop – January 21
- YMC Winter Lock-In – February 3-4
- Children Welcome! conference, Kansas City – Feb. 23-25
- Youth Spring Retreat – April 20-22
- Regional Assembly – June 1-3
- Exteme Faith/Bold Action – July 13-15 (Early bird registration by Jan. 9)



*Regional Minister
Rev. G. Lee Parker*

Reflections from the Regional Minister

They say a preacher's task is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

As we approach Advent, it occurs to me that there is a world of difference between being comforted and being comfortable.

Being comfortable implies, at least in our culture, an absence of disturbing, distressing features in one's life. More specifically, it carries the connotation of a standard of living that is more than sufficient. And so we say: "She makes a comfortable salary. They enjoy a very comfortable lifestyle."

When we look for synonyms, we think of such words as content, untroubled, carefree and secure. All of these things, taken together, give the term comfortable the faint aroma of complacency and a whiff of self-satisfaction.

Some protect their comfortableness by choosing to avoid the disturbing, distressing and painful features of this life and these times—hunger, homelessness, and violence, fires in Texas, earthquakes in Turkey, Mineral and Oklahoma, floods in the American northeast. They refuse to participate in genuine, give-and-take, listen-as-well-as-speak debates over the morality of abortion, homosexuality and gun control. They ignore the quiet desperation of many individuals, the collapse of community, and the resulting loneliness that is the identifying characteristic of life in suburban America. Those determined to keep their comfort level high avoid dealing with these things, or at least minimize their exposure to them.

Let's be careful: Not all people of wealth are "comfortable" in this sense of the word, nor does one have to be wealthy to be comfortable in this way. What one needs to be in order to be comfortable in this way is apathetic, dispassionate, detached, aloof and/or very good at denial. The sad truth is many of us strive to be comfortable.

The bad news of Advent is that God does not help us in our efforts to be comfortable. The good news of Advent is that God does comfort us. To

The Virginia Christian

Editorial Team:
Amy Moore
Lee Parker

**THE VIRGINIA
CHRISTIAN**

(UPS 102-720
ISSN 0747-3400)

is published quarterly
for its membership
by the Christian

Church (Disciples of
Christ) in Virginia,
1290 Enterprise Drive,
Lynchburg, Virginia
24502, (434) 846-3400.

Periodicals postage
paid in Collinsville,
Virginia, and
additional offices.

Send address changes
to THE VIRGINIA
CHRISTIAN,

1290 Enterprise Drive,
Lynchburg, VA 24502.

comfort means to soothe in distress or sorrow; to ease misery or grief; to bring consolation or hope.

When John is in prison, he sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the Messiah. Jesus responds with the good news that the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have good news brought to them. In a word, the afflicted are comforted. But they are not made comfortable.

So what of us this Advent?

Would we rather be comforted or comfortable? Would we prefer to be apathetic, dispassionate, detached, and aloof—unmoved by the very things God's coming Messiah came to remedy?

Or are we spiritually prepared to immerse ourselves in the rugged world to which the Savior came, trusting God's promise to comfort us when the load becomes heavy, the grief intense, the sorrow and misery unbearable? For some of us, that might mean going to ghettos and barrios, nursing homes, prisons or mental institutions. For others, it means sharing the grief or misery of a neighbor, a fellow member of the church, a co-worker. It means being for that person a conduit of God's comfort, an incarnation of God's comforting presence, a messenger who gently and unapologetically shares how the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem and his subsequent life, death and resurrection bring consolation and hope to us.

However, before we can speak that word, we need to hear it.

Listen, people of God—people who want to know and love God, people who want to know and love one another, but who are afraid: to you—precisely to you—in this, your affliction, God comes to you. For when we are afflicted, that is when God comforts us. If we are comfortable, God must first penetrate our false security. Only then can the news of the Messiah's coming strike our ears as a word of comfort.

Christmas Offering to be received

December 11 & 18, 2011



The Christmas Offering supports the ministries of our region, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia. Through this offering, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship.

Ministries of the Region include the camps, conferences and retreats offered for children, youth, men and women. The Region also plays a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister. The Regional minister also plays an important role in helping congregations through conflict and other difficult situations.

Around the Old Dominion

Louisa – Louisa Christian Church celebrated 160 years with Homecoming on Sunday, September 18th. Special music was provided by the youth of the church, as well as a vocal solo and an anthem by the choir. The anniversary speaker was the Rev. Kathryn Hull, minister of Macedonia Christian Church in Orange, VA. The Rev. Lee Parker led the congregation in the benediction and the blessing for the fellowship meal which followed the morning service. Homecoming was the culmination of six months of anniversary events, including The Living Last Supper, presented in April; a ladies Victorian Tea, presented in May; and special music and church history presentations presented during the summer months. Displays

provided church members and guests an opportunity to relive important and special events of the church, and each person attending the Homecoming service received a copy of "What Louisa Christian Church Means to Me," written by members of the congregation. A dogwood tree was planted on the church property, and a pictorial and documented book of the church cemetery was prepared and presented to the church in honor of the 160th anniversary.



Newport News—Hilton Christian Church celebrated the birthday of St. Francis on October 1 with their sixth annual Pet Blessing. The event was attended by 43 people, and 25 animals were blessed—including dogs, cats, two birds,

two snakes, a chinchilla and an iguana! This annual event provides food for Animal Aid in Hampton, a no-kill shelter for abandoned and abused dogs.

To view *The Virginia Christian* online, go to www.ccinva.org. The next issue of *The Virginia Christian* will be published in **February 2012**. Deadline for submissions is **January 16**. Articles submitted for the "Around the Old Dominion" section should be no more than 200 words. Articles and photos may be submitted by mail to the Regional Office or by email to: moore.amy.g@gmail.com.



Rev. Terrye Williams blesses a snake.

Blacksburg—Sunday, August 21, 2011, was a very special day in the life of the Blacksburg Christian Church family. The afternoon began on the banks of the New River with wading, fishing, swimming, sharing of stories, fellowship, and lots of food, of course. Then, after making their confessions of faith, nineteen entered the waters of baptism as 185 family and friends celebrated these new creations in Christ. Celebrating with those who were baptized brought back memories of our own baptisms and profoundly strengthened the faith of each of us.



Retreat held for Commissioned Ministers

The Commission on Licensed Ministry held its 3rd annual "Equipping the Saints" retreat for Commissioned Ministers August 12-13, 2011, at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center near Lynchburg. Sixteen people gathered for fellowship, keynote presentations, practicums, and worship centered on this year's theme, "Spiritual Life and Pastoral Care."

Our two keynote speakers were Dr. Karen-Marie Yust, Associate Professor of Christian Education, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, and Rev. Nathan C. Brooks III, Executive Director, Pastoral Counseling Services of Central Virginia.

The event was a continuation of a four-year education program for Commissioned Ministers in the Region.

Ministerial Changes

John Turner, pastor of Gilboa CC, Cuckoo, resigned.

Mary Elise Early, interim for Hillsville CC starting in September.

Paul Stutzman, interim at Boones Mill CC beginning September 1.

Jonathan Kruschwitz was ordained September 19 at Gayton Road CC, Richmond.

Curtis Wheeler, minister of Fairview CC, Lynchburg, beginning November 21.

Dwight Mays, Gretna CC, will retire in December.

Slash Christian Church—a Community Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Coming together

God's vision calls all of us at Slash Christian Church to be a community "Reaching Up, Reaching Out, and Coming Together." Since January and the All-Church Planning Retreat, every member of our congregation has been committed to following God's vision. None of us had any idea what God had in store for us this year.

God called us to Reach Up. We define that action as reaching up to our God who loves us and never gives up on us. We do that through our worship and constant prayer.

Over the last few years dedicated members of our congregation have recognized the need for a way to have more people in worship without adding seats to our historic sanctuary. Worship attendance has been strong, and people were worried that it was difficult to welcome visitors when there were not many places for them to sit on Sunday morning.

We also wanted to offer a more visitor/seeker-friendly style of worship, so began praying and planning for a second Sunday morning service. *G3nes1s Worship* began in September. The spelling comes from our recognition of the 3 ways God has been revealed to us: as the Creator of all, as a person in Jesus, and as our advocate

in the Holy Spirit. *G3nes1s* is our new beginning in worship, a time each week when we have the opportunity to say "yes" again to God.

God called us to Reach Out, so we planned a big month of September at Slash, with a goal of reaching 100 visitors that month. While our 11:00 traditional service continued to welcome visitors, we

also began our new *G3nes1s* Worship Service, which reignited the passion in some inactive members and also drew visitors. We held

a free community concert that packed the house for musical worship on a Saturday afternoon. We also planned an outdoor

worship service, along with a meal on the grounds, fun activities for kids, and a dunk tank.

One hundred visitors sounds like a lot of people, but you never know what God is going to do. We believed and followed God's plan, and 111 visitors came in September!



Andra Moran headlined the community concert.



Our leadership (Rev. Michael Weeks, Troy Payne and Keith Dalton) got wet for CROP and celebrated Reaching 100.



WORKSHOP

**FROM VISITOR
TO MEMBER**

"E"-TOOLS TO:

- Create belonging
- Form disciples

Saturday, January 21, 2012
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Registration at 9:30 a.m.



Rev. Bill
Lee,
Guest
Preacher



Rev. Bill
McConnell,
Keynote
Speaker

Seventh Street Christian Church
 4101 Grove Ave.
 Richmond VA 23221

Sponsored by the Evangelism and
 New Church Ministry of the
 Christian Church (Disciples of
 Christ) in Virginia

The Evangelism and New Church Ministry invites all Virginia Disciple churches to Extreme Makeover: Church Edition II. The theme of the workshop is FROM VISITOR TO MEMBER. The workshop features guest preacher Reverend Bill Lee, Senior Minister of Loudon Avenue Christian Church in Roanoke. Former Moderator for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), he has preached for Regional Assemblies and General Assemblies.

Keynote speaker Reverend Bill McConnell has served almost 20 years at Legacy Christian Church in Harrison Ohio. During his tenure the church membership has tripled to an average worship attendance of over 400. He has published four books and written numerous articles in professional journals. His book on church transformation, *Renew Your Congregation: Healing the Sick and Raising the Dead*, was published by Chalice Press in 2008. Bill has served on the National Transformation Team of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and currently serves on the Ohio Region's Transformation Team. He is currently a church consultant and a church coach. A member of the National Evangelistic Association's board of directors, he frequently leads retreats and transformation events. Bill is an associate with the Columbia Partnership.

To encourage attendance, special discounts on fees are offered for churches that send their pastor and a leadership team. Registration materials are available from your church or online at www.ccinva.org.

Women's Retreat Cruises the World

The Virginia Disciple Women's Fall "Cruise" at the Blackstone Methodist Retreat Center October 14-16 arrived safely back to land after "traveling" to India, China, Haiti, Colombia and Venezuela, Kenya, China and Turkey on the international "Come to the Waters" Cruise. Lee Parker, Regional Minister, President Kathy Witt, and Donna Webster, Director of Women's Ministries for the Region, gave the welcome to the 98 women that attended this year's Fall Retreat.

All the women received a global ministries passport and had their passport photo taken by Virginia Disciple Women President Kathy Witt as they boarded the "ship" for the weekend. Passports were "checked" on Saturday as the women prepared to enter the retreat's ports of call by Shirley Galant and Josephine Pilson, Mount Olive East Christian Church. The Retreat's theme song "Come to the Water" was written by David Edwards, pastor of Church of the Covenant, Lynchburg, VA.

The women were blessed with spirit-led, thought-provoking messages from our very special guest, the Rev. Julia Marie Karimu, President of Overseas Ministries and Co-Executor of Global Ministries. Rev. Karimu spoke on the search for abundance (Isaiah 55:1), discerning our journey

(John 12: 1-8), and becoming living stones (1 Peter 2:4-6).

On Saturday, two of the Beatitudes skits (available on www.discipleswomenva.org) were acted out by Jennifer Larson, West Side CC, and Gina Artz, Parkview CC, and ladies from Mount Olive East—Marilyn Whittaker, Shirley Galant, Jennifer Ziglar, Linda Preston, Margretha Kellem and Tiffaine Hairston.

Jennifer Larson and Marilyn Whittaker (Members of the Human Trafficking Regional Committee), introduced us on ways in which we can advocate in our churches on Global Human Trafficking Day January 11, 2012, and presented each church with a human trafficking awareness tool kit. For information and to obtain your tool kit, please contact Jennifer at 757-640-1915 or Marilyn at 276-957-8680.

Shipboard activities included: "Go Overboard for Mission," hosted by Jennifer Larson and Marilyn Whittaker; Captain Clueless®, a fun navigation game hosted by Jennie Sue Murdoch; choir practice led by Irma Gustafson; pilates led by Danette Bolyard; shipboard library hosted by Madelyn Logan; shopping on The Promenade, led by Joy Flowers; and "Let's Go to the Movies."

Woman-to-Woman Ports of Call were hosted by the following: Haiti—Julie Compton



Special guests Alicia Rodriguez and Julia Marie Karimu

of FCC Hampton (Virginia's first Woman-to-Woman participant); India—Disciple Women President Kathy Witt of Petunia CC; China—Jennifer Larson of West Side CC; Kenya—Verl Ann of Newbern CC (NC); Turkey—Alicia Rodriguez of the Florida Region and Vice President of Hispanic and Bilingual Ministries, Disciples Women; Colombia & Venezuela—Jennie Sue Murdoch of Fort Lewis CC, Salem.

Saturday evening the ladies dressed for the Captain's Ball, a lovely evening of dining in the fireside room which ended with music from our retreat choir and a fun game of Love Boat Trivia by Pat Mays and Kathy Witt.

The Basket Auction was a huge hit this year! The auction was organized and led by Wanda Redd of Mount Olive East CC. The Basket Auction and The Promenade (Talents for Missions) raised \$1100 for our Woman-to-Woman 2012 Journey to China (application

available the first of the year).

On Sunday, Jill Jordan, interim pastor of Perseverance CC, Dundas, gave a lively message on how Disciple Women can better "weather the storms" in our lives. The worship service was led by the ladies from Olive Branch CC, and the communion service was led by the Virginia Disciple Women's Regional Cabinet.

Members of the Disciple Women Regional Cabinet appreciate all the women that participated and helped in this year's retreat.

Next year's retreat will be led by the ladies of Olive Branch. More information can be found, as it becomes available, on at www.discipleswomenva.org, the Virginia Disciple Women's website.

Whitney Redd performs a liturgical dance during worship.



The ladies dressed up for the Captain's Ball.



Sisters of Song—Disciple Women's New Retreat Choir

While Virginia Disciple Women have been singing successfully together for decades at our Quadrennials, the women of Virginia worked hard at the Blackstone Retreat to form the first ever women's retreat choir. The new choir, directed by Irma Gustafson, sang several "fun" songs during the entertainment portion of the ship's activities and two anthems during morning worship. Later the retreat's participants submitted potential names for the choir. Thanks to the submission of Shirley Harrison and her daughter Michelle, the Women's Retreat Choir will be called "Sisters of Song."

Many thanks to those who participated in all the rehearsals at the retreat and special thanks to Irma for all the hard work organizing our first choir.

Regional Women's Cabinet Representatives Needed

Virginia Disciple Women's Representatives are needed for Districts 10 and 11. Anyone interested in learning about these appointments and willing to serve are encouraged to contact Donna Webster, Director of Women's Ministries, at 540-392-1312, or Kathy Witt, Virginia Disciple Women President, at 276-228-3609. More information about the Virginia Disciple Women can be found at www.discipleswomenva.org

Special Thanks to the Women of Worship Praise Team

The Women of Worship Praise Team from First Christian Church, Winchester, VA, led the worship music once again at this year's Women's Retreat at Blackstone. Associate Pastor Joan Rainsberger has hosted and participated in Women's Spiritual Renewal Services and retreats in the Shenandoah Valley for the last 5 years. The Women's Spiritual Renewal Service is a Disciples evangelistic ministry for women. Along with Joan, three others make up the praise team. Karen Schlosser is Director of Music and choir director at FCC Winchester. Laura Fletcher, the newest member of the group, is a member of the choir at the church. Darlene Buchanan, also a member of the choir at First Christian, has been involved in other musical groups in the church and community of Winchester. Rounding out the group is Ellie Honour, who sets up and operates the sound system for the group, but who, unfortunately was unable to attend this year's retreat.

A Gathering of Disciples Men July 13 - 15, 2012



Join men from across the United States and Canada at Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia, for inspiration, fellowship, education, and spiritual renewal.

X-TREME FAITH FRIDAY:

'X-treme Faith Bold Action Kickoff'

Men of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Meet & Greet, Fellowship Pig Roast, Games, Pep Rally, Surprises & more!



Mission Work

There will be several hands-on projects for "Tool-belt Christians." Among the projects are a trail from the Campbell Mansion to God's Acre (the Campbell cemetery).



Work on the old Brush Run Church site.



Repair on the Mansion and its property.



BOLD ACTION SATURDAY:

'An Evening with Derek Maul: 10 Life Charged Words for Disciples Men

Tours
There will be tours of Bethany College and the Campbell Mansion and grounds.



Mr. Derek Maul
Author
and Men's Ministry Speaker

A GATHERING OF DISCIPLES MEN SUNDAY:

'A Special Message for Disciples Men'

History
Explore the history of the beginnings of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)..



Work Shops



There will be several workshops to choose from.



Dr. Frank Thomas
Pastor, Mississippi Blvd.
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ),
Memphis, TN

You can register for "Xtreme Faith, Bold Action: A Gathering of Disciples Men" online at our web site

www.gathering2012.org

or by downloading the registration form and returning it to the Office of Disciples Men, or by contacting the Office of Disciples Men to request a registration form.

Send requests and registration forms to:

GATHERING 2012, Office of Disciples Men, P.O.Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986.

Early Bird Registration through January 9, 2012 is only \$125.

Registration after January 9 through May 5, 2012 is \$175.

Housing and meals will be extra.

Early Bird Registration for men 35 or under through January 9, 2012 is \$80.
January 10 through May 5, 2012: \$100.

General Church News

Hope Partnership for Mission Transformation

Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation is a collaboration of Church Extension, Disciples Home Missions, Higher Education & Leadership Ministries, congregations, regions, theological institutions, general ministries, racial/ethnic and women's ministries and ecumenical partners.

Hope Partnership's purpose is to empower courageous leaders as they guide the Church into life-giving expressions of ministry for this new era of God's mission.

The Church in North America is experiencing a massive cultural shift. The majority of people are no longer affiliated with a faith community; more than 60 percent of Disciples congregations are in decline; churches and their neighborhood demographics are often mismatched; buildings are choking a congregation's ability to do ministry.

Hope Partnership seeks to help leaders manage the shift from making good church members to making disciples of Jesus, the shift from church growth to community transformation, the shift from preserving structures to doing God's mission.

Learn more about Hope Partnership and join the The Intersection, a centralized web site for discussion, information, and resource sharing among Disciples and their congregations: www.disciplesintersection.org.

Disciples Alaska Cruise May 24 – June 2, 2012

The Senior Adult Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida invite you to join them on Holland America's beautiful Westerdam leaving from Seattle for a spectacular 7-night cruise through Alaska's Inside Passage. Ports of call include Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria, British Columbia, and Glacier Bay, returning to Seattle. Costs range from \$699—\$1469.

Bible study and/or worship services will be held on board when the ship is "at sea." Celebrate Pentecost Sunday by worshipping with Disciples from around the country on board ship in this beautiful setting.

The Alaska Cruise is the fifth cruise sponsored by Florida's Senior Adults, and we do hope you will consider being a part of this exciting voyage. Please make your reservations through our travel agent to receive the red carpet treatment we have come to expect and enjoy!

For questions about the Disciples programming, contact Rev. Roslin Springer: rsprin1@tampabay.rr.com.

To make your reservations or receive more cruise information, contact: Dean Skinner, CTC, Indian River Travel, 11951 U. S. Highway 1, North Palm Beach, FL 33408; Toll free 877-626-6110 / dean@indianrivertravel.com

Lynchburg College News

Callom Harkrader, a senior at Lynchburg College from Mineral, VA, was recently named the 2011-12 Sommerville Scholar, the highest academic award given by the college in recognition of the culmination of a distinguished academic record. He is the son of Clyde Sr. and Mary Harkrader of Mineral and a member of Gilboa Christian Church, which sustained severe damage in the August 23 earthquake. "It was quite shaking psychologically," he said.

A psychology major with minors in history and theatre, Callom has a cumulative GPA of 3.84 and has been on the Dean's List every semester. He has served as a PASS leader for psychology and as a tutor in history.

He is the last of his four siblings to attend Lynchburg College and he is going out with a bang. LC has Mary Hannah Harkrader Johnson '07 to thank for bringing her three brothers, including Clyde Jr. '09 and Nathan '11, to LC. Mary Hannah majored in music and loved her experience singing for Dr. Jong Kim. "We all started coming to see her perform," Callom said. "All of us ended up falling in love with LC."

Callom has served as president of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and been a member of the Student Judicial Board. His leadership was recognized by his inclu-



sion in Omicron Delta Kappa, the Leadership Honors Society, and he is a member of numerous other academic honor societies.

He has participated in five theatrical performances on campus and one at Sweet Briar College. He is also an avid amateur athlete, participating in intramural soccer, volleyball, flag football, tennis, and even wiffleball.

He has traveled to Romania five times as a member of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, serving as a co-leader of teams that worked with Romanian children through the nonprofit organization Project Ruth.

Dr. Robert White, professor of French, observed that Callom "goes far beyond only classroom application.... He has always thought and studied beyond the requirements of our syllabi.... When did he find the time for all he has accomplished, both in and out of the classroom?"

"I've tried not to waste any time at LC," Callom said with a smile, but added modestly, "I know so many people who are smarter than I am and have higher GPAs. It's humbling to win this award. I'm definitely proud to be part of this class."

Callom has his sights on Oxford University, either a one-year certificate program in Christian apologetics or Oxford's social work program. He's also interested in animal-assisted therapy.

Continued from front page

Gilboa Christian Church is historic for many reasons, not the least of which is its connection with Alexander Campbell, one of the founders of our denomination. As Alexander Campbell was becoming dissatisfied with the Presbyterian church of his Scottish upbringing, he authored a publication known as *The Christian Baptist*. The first issue appeared in 1823; other issues followed until 1830. Descendants of Colonel Edmund Pendleton—a Revolutionary War patriot, politician, lawyer and judge—settled in the Cuckoo area of Louisa County. They became readers of *The Christian Baptist* and thus came under the influence of Alexander Campbell. The Pendleton family donated land near its home for the establishment of a church, which was then known as Mount Gilboa Church. Gilboa was later described in an 1871 book entitled *Living Pulpit of the Christian Church* as “the germ from which sprung many other congregations.”

One of Colonel Pendleton’s descendants was William Kimbrough (“W.K.”) Pendleton, who was born in 1817. William was exposed to many of his family’s ideas about religion and the neighborhood opposition to its “peculiar doctrines.” William studied at the University of Virginia. He was baptized by Alexander Campbell at Mount Gilboa Church in June, 1840, and on October 14, 1840, married Alexander Campbell’s daughter, Lavinia. Unfortunately, she died less than



More earthquake damage: a hole in the back wall of the sanctuary of Gilboa CC.

six years after their marriage.

The members and friends of Gilboa Christian Church would appreciate your prayers, encouragement and support as they rebuild. You can follow their progress at the church’s web site, www.gilboachurch.org.

Youth News

Youth of Virginia, save these dates!

Winter Lock-In: Grades 6-12, Bethany Christian Church, Richmond, February 3-4, 2012; cost \$10 per person (including adults).

Spring Retreat, Grades 9-12, Camp Piankatank in Hartford, VA, April 20-22, 2012; cost TBA.

Regional Assembly, Lynchburg College, June 1-3. More information in the next *Virginia Christian*.

Also, there will be a Mission Trip sponsored by the YMC June 24-29. More details to come soon.

Craig Springs News

2012 Craig Springs calendar available

The 12-month calendar includes scenic photos and ones with campers participating in fun camp activities as well as information about each camp and dates for the 2012 camping season. It is spiral bound, with a sturdy cover. Cost: \$15 (\$16.75 with shipping). A "stack" can be sent to a point person in a congregation for selling. Checks should be made payable to Friends of Craig Springs, and orders sent to 100 Copperfield Road, Wirtz VA 24184. Proceeds benefit Craig Springs.

Barton College group helps out

A group from Barton College, Wilson, NC, spent their fall break at the Craig Springs Work Weekend in October. The work trip was sponsored by Campus Compassion, a campus group with the purpose of "motivating students to educate themselves about the community and world in which we live and bring about positive change."

2012 Craig Springs Schedule

Work Weekend – Memorial Day Weekend

GAP Conference – June 7-11

Nature Camp – June 17-22

Special Camp – July 1-6

Chi Rho Conference – July 8-13

CYF Conference – July 8-13

Multi-age Camp 1 – July 15-20

AMPDD – July 22-27

Multi-age Camp 2 – July 29-August 3

New Covenant Camp – August 5-10

Outdoor Adventure Camp – August 5-10

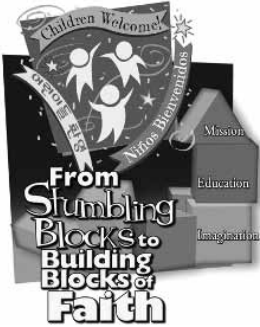
Family Camp – August 10-13

Descriptions of each camp and registration forms will be available in January at www.craigsprings.com



The group from Barton College: (back row, l. to r.) Rachel Moore (Bedford CC), Chaplain Hollie Woodruff, Zeb Whitehurst, George Negron, (front row, l. to r.) Kaitlyn Kosuda, Beth Coble, Bianca Lee, Lauren Aster, Kevin Toth.

Kid's Korner



Children Welcome! Conference

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Presbyterian Church (USA) are jointly sponsoring the upcoming Children

Welcome! conference with the theme "*From Stumbling Blocks to Building Blocks of Faith.*" It will be held in Kansas City, February 23-25, 2012. The cost is \$130 for the two and a half days, inclusive of an evening banquet and lunches. You can also register for just Saturday at a cost of \$95.

This fifth Children Welcome! Conference will be an opportunity for personal and congregational renewal as together we explore how best to respond to the needs and gifts of children. The time will be filled with music, worship, the learning of new skills, theological discussions, Biblical reflections, networking and much, much more.

The season of Advent is quickly approaching. This is a wonderful time to involve the children and families in your congregation. Some ideas for families to do at home as they prepare to receive the Christ Child: Go hiking in the woods and gather pine cones and greenery to decorate an Advent wreath at home. Plant a narcissus bulb at the beginning of Advent; it should bloom in about 4 weeks, just in time for Christmas Day. Go to the DHM website for these and more ideas (www.disciplehomemissions.org).

Share your ideas as well. Contact Elaine Austin at Bethany Christian Church in Roanoke (540.366.0968 or austinrva@cox.net).

Regional Staff

Lee Parker, Regional Minister

Ann Pulley, Associate Regional Minister for Youth & Outdoor Ministry

Ellen Canode, Minister to Youth

Ray Gryder, Director of Men's Ministries

Donna Webster, Director of Women's Ministries

Bill Moore, Director of Commissioned Ministry

Alisha Bennett, Manager of Craig Springs Camp & Retreat Center

Amy Moore, *Virginia* Christian Editor & Regional Assembly Coordinator

Rita Rodenbaugh, Administrative Assistant

Susan Gordon, Secretary

Judee Bogle, Financial Secretary